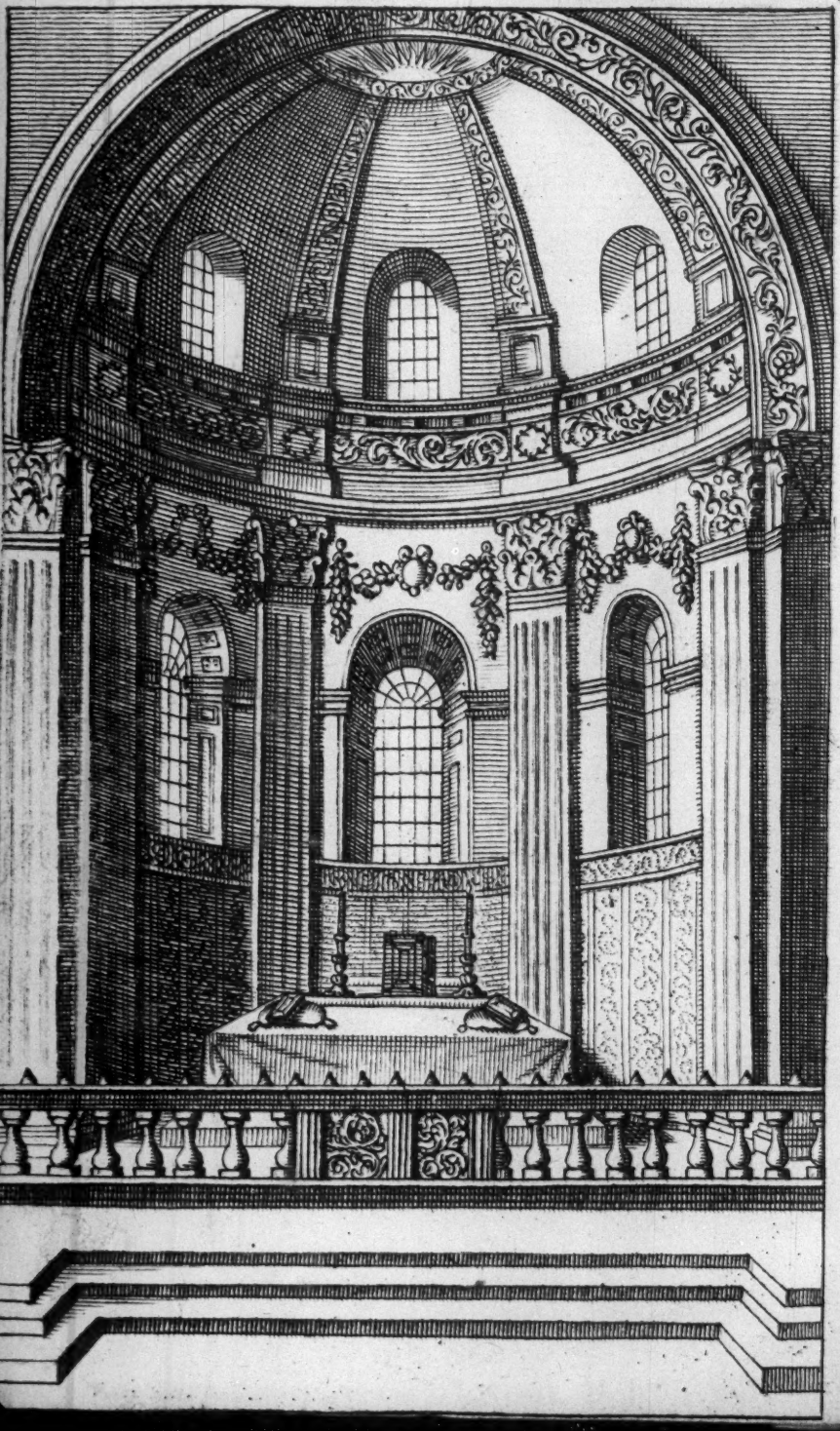

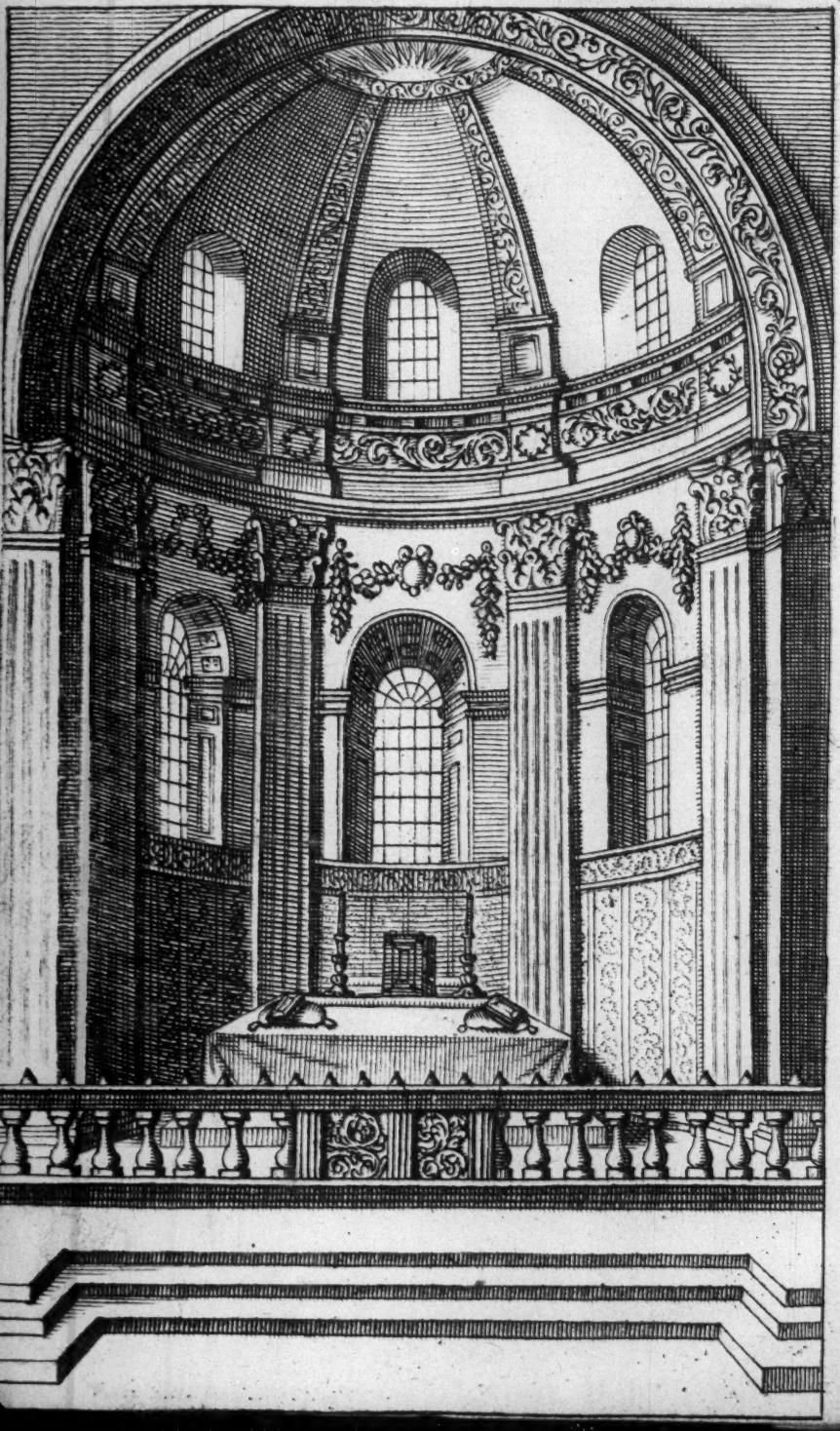

THE

HOLY-DAYS,

Or the HOLY

FEASTS & FASTS,

As they are obſerved in the

Church of England,

(Throughout the Year)

EXPLAINED.

And the Reaſons why they are Yearly Celebrated.

With Cuts before each Day.

LONDON,
Printed, for *Samuel Keble*, at the *Turk's-Head* in *Fleetſtreet*. 1706.

THE

Compilers, of the Common-Prayer-Book, of the Church of England, *were*

Dr. *Cranmer*, Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*.
Dr. *Goodrick*, Biſhop of *Ely*.
Dr. *Skip*, Biſhop of *Hereford*.
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Dr. *Cox*, King *Edward*'s Almoner.
Mr. *Robinſon*, Archdeacon of *Leiceſter*.

Menſe *Maii* 1549.
Anno Regni Edwardi Sexti, *Tertio*.

BRITISH MUSEUM

To the Reader.

THo' *the Smallneſs of this Tract, will ſcarce Juſtifie the Solemnity of a* Preface; *yet I think it may not be Improper to ſet down, the Words of the Canon, made in the Reign of King* James *the Firſt; which are as follow.*

Canon the 13.
The Due Celebration of *Sundays* and *Holydays*.

ALL manner of Perſons, within the Church of England, ſhall from henceforth Celebrate, and keep the Lord's Day (commonly call'd Sunday) and other Holy Days, accord-

ing-

ſing to God's Holy Will and Pleaſure, and the Orders of the Church of England preſcrib'd in that behalf: That is, in hearing the Word of God Read and Taught, in Private and Publick Prayers; in Acknowledging their Offences to God, and Amendment of the ſame; in reconcil'ing themſelves Charitably to their Neighbours, where Diſpleaſure hath been; in oftentimes receiving the Communion of the Body and Blood of Chriſt; in viſiting of the Poor and Sick, uſing all godly and ſober Converſation.

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THE

Holy FEASTS and FASTS OF THE Church Explain'd.

The 1ſt of January *is the* Circumciſion, *vulgarly called* New-Years-Day;

(Becauſe it begins the New Year, and minds us of a New Life.)

Jan. 1. THis Day, (Commonly call'd *New-Years-Day*) the Church hath Prudently thought fit to set apart, for a devout Commemoration of our Saviour's *Circumcision*, who, when he was but Eight Days old, underwent that Painful Ceremony, and Shed his Precious Blood in Drops, as an Earnest of those Rivers which he afterwards Shed upon the Cross, for the Salvation of Mankind. At this time likewise, our Blessed *Lord*, received the great and Adorable Name of *Jesus*, according to the Prediction of the Angel, *A Name, at which every Knee shall bow, both in Heaven and Earth.* Upon these Accounts, every Christian ought to Celebrate this Day with the greatest Joy and Exultation, Praising and Adoring our Blessed Redeemer, who hath left Us the Sacrament of Baptism, in lieu of that Bloody Rite of *Circumcision.*

The

The 6th of January *is* Epiphany, *or* Twelfth-Day.

Jan. 6. THis Day, is set apart, for a Devout Commemoration of the Glorious Manifestation of our Blessed Saviour, to the Eastern *Magi*, by a Star. For, when the Holy *Jesus* was born in *Bethlehem* of *Judæa*, there ap-

appeared in the Sky, a Star of a moſt Refulgent Brightneſs, which was Immediatly diſcover'd by the *Wiſe-men* of the Eaſt, who had a moſt profound Knowledge and Skill in *Aſtronomy*. Theſe Men concluded that this Prodigy muſt certainly be an Omen of ſomewhat Extraordinary; and therefore, they followed the Star, which conducted them in the Search of our Saviour, by going before them, and ſtanding ſtill, at the very Place where the young Child was. And when they had found the Holy Innocent, they preſented him with ſome of the richeſt Products of their Country, (*viz.*) Gold, Frankincenſe, and Myrrh; and having thus paid their Sacrifice of Adoration, they return'd into their own Country, with the greateſt Joy and Satisfaction. The word *Epiphany*, ſignifies Manifeſtation or Appearance, and is ſometimes made uſe of, to expreſs the illuſtrious Manifeſtation at our Saviour's Baptiſm; as alſo his Miraculous power at the Marriage in *Cana* of *Galilee*, by turning Water into Wine. This is alſo called *Twelfth-Day*, it being Celebrated juſt

Twelve

Twelve Days after our Saviour's Nativity.

The 25th of January *is the Converſion of St.* Paul.

Jan. 25. THis Day, is ſet apart, for a Memorial of the miraculous *Converſion* of St. *Paul* to the Chriſtian *Faith.* He was Born at *Tarſus*, a City

of *Cilicia*, where he was well inſtructed in the Liberal Arts and Sciences, and afterwards brought up at the Feet of *Gamaliel*. He was Naturally of a very Hot and Furious Diſpoſition, and was Educated a *Phariſee*, the ſtricteſt Sect in the *Jewiſh* Church; and conſequently, having a great Averſion to all that oppoſed his Tenets, he raiſed a Violent Perſecution againſt the Poor Chriſtians at *Jeruſalem*; but this would not ſatisfie his unbounded Malice, and ſo he procur'd a Commiſſion, to go down and ranſack the Synagogues at *Damaſcus*. But, as He, and his Companions, were on their Way, (almoſt at their Journey's End) on a ſudden, a Light from Heaven darted upon them, at which they all fell to the Ground. And *Paul* more particularly heard a Voice, ſaying, *Saul, Saul, why, perſecuteſt thou Me?* Whereupon he was ſtruck with a great Terror, and from that time became a Glorious Inſtrument of Good in the Church. He Preach'd that very *Jeſus*, whom he had before Perſecuted, and was indefatigably Laborious in Converting Sinners from the Error of their Ways.

This

This great Apoſtle, was Beheaded at *Rome*, in the 68*th* Year of his Age, by the Command of *Nero* the *Roman* Emperor.

*y*e Royal Martyr King CHARLES *y*e I.
E. Hill Inve. Sculp.

The Martyrdom of King Charles I.

Jan. 30. THis Day, is ſet apart for a Commemoration of the Martyrdom

tyrdom of King *Charles* the First. For the Compassing of which Bloody Design, his Enemies represented all his Actions most falsly and maliciously in their Libels, and then rais'd open War against him, without any just Cause. Nay, they proceeded to so high a Degree of Wickedness, that they tried him without Law, and pass'd Sentence on him, without giving him leave to save himself by a fair and impartial Vindication; and at last, brought him to that cruel Death, which they all along design'd, and which is recited at large in our Annals, to the perpetual Infamy and Reproach of all that acted therein. He was certainly, a Wise, Pious, and Charitable Prince, and so those Bloodthirsty Rebels, sent him but sooner to Eternal Peace. And I doubt not, that he whom they falsly Numbred among Transgressors, is now Numbred among the Saints in Glory everlasting. See a Book entitled *Eikon Basilike*, written by himself.

The

The 2d of February *is the Purification of the* Virgin Mary, *vulgarly called* Candlemas-Day.

Feb. 2. THis Day (commonly call'd *Candlemas-Day*,) is ſolemniz'd upon a double Account, partly, as a Memorial of the Bleſſed Virgin's *Puri-*

fication;

fication; and likewiſe of the *Preſentation* of the Holy *Jeſus* in the Temple. The Mother of our *Lord* could certainly contract no Impurity by the Immaculate Conception and Parturition of our *Lord*, and conſequently, was exempted from the Reaſons of *Purification*; but however, She was willing to ſubmit to the Law, that ſhe might fulfil all Righteouſneſs; and being expoſed to the common Reputation of an ordinary Condition, ſhe thought it reaſonable to comply with all concurring Circumſtances. This Rite of *Purification* was exacted from all Mothers 40 Days after their delivery of a Male Child, to remind Us of our Original Pollution. And ſince this was an indiſpenſible Injunction, the Bleſſed Virgin herein expreſt her Humility and Obedience to Publick Sanctions. This Day, is call'd *Candlemas*, becauſe the *Romans* us'd always hereon to go in Proceſſion with lighted Candles in their Hands.

February 24. *is St.* Matthias-Day.

Febr. 24. THis Day, is ſet apart in Commemoration of the Martyrdom of St. *Matthias.* He obtain'd the Honour of Being call'd to the Apoſtleſhip, by the Death of *Judas Iſcariot*, who having betray'd his Maſter for 30 Pieces

Pieces of Silver, went, and hang'd himſelf. The Number of the Apoſtles were always confin'd to 12, and there being a Vacancy upon the Deceaſe of the Traytor, St. *Peter* told the reſt, that it was neceſſary another ſhould be Subſtituted in his Room. Accordingly, they appointed two, *Joſeph*, (whoſe Sir-name was *Barſabas*,) and *Matthias*, both equally qualified for the Holy Function. And having begg'd the bleſſing of Heaven for Succeſs in this great Undertaking, they caſt Lots which of theſe two ſhould be admitted into the Apoſtolick Charge, and the Lot fell upon *Matthias*, who became a Bleſſed Inſtrument of Converting Multitudes to Chriſtianity. The Manner of his Death is uncertain; ſome ſay that he was Beheaded; but others upon better grounds, report that he was Crucified.

The

The first Day of Lent, *commonly called* Aſhwedneſday, *and is a Movable-day.*

THis Day, begins the Solemn Faſt of *Lent*, a time of extraordinary Humiliation, and ought to be ſpent in the Strickteſt Courſe of Mortification and Self-denial. The Primitive Chriſtians,

ſtians, us'd on this Day, to expreſs their Sorrow for Sin, by lying in Sackcloth, and having *Aſhes* ſprinkled upon their Heads; from which Cuſtom, this Day has the Denomination of *Dies Cinerum*, or *Aſh-Wedneſday*. Upon this Day, likewiſe, Notorious Sinners were put to open Penance, and were not ſuffer'd to participate of any of the Acts of Church-Communion, till by the moſt Publick Teſtimonies of Sorrow and Repentance, and the greateſt Signs of Humiliation that can be imagin'd, they had made Atonement for their enormous Crimes. This Faſt of *Lent*, was appointed partly for a Commemoration of our Bleſſed Saviour's Faſting in the Wilderneſs Forty Days, and Forty Nights; and partly to prepare our Selves for the great Solemnity of *Eaſter*, and for the Reception of the Bleſſed Sacrament, which is on that great Feſtival always to be Celebrated.

The 25th of March *is the* Annunciation *of the Bleſſed Virgin* Mary.

March 25. THis Day, the Church hath prudently thought fit to ſet apart as a Memorial of the *Annunciation*, or Declaration which was made by the Angel *Gabriel*, to the Bleſſed Virgin

Virgin *Mary*; who came unto her, and told her that ſhe was *highly favoured of the Lord*, and that ſhe ſhould be the Mother of an univerſal and everlaſting Bleſſing, which all former Ages had deſir'd, and all future Times ſhould rejoice in. For, (ſays the Angel) *thou ſhalt conceive in thy Womb, and ſhalt bring forth a Son, and ſhalt call his Name Jeſus.* This uncommon Salutation was no ſmall ſurprize to the Holy Maid, judging her ſelf unworthy of ſo great an Honour: Moreover ſhe knew not how to unfold the Myſtery, imagining it to be beyond the Courſe of Nature for her to Conceive, who had *never known a Man.* But the Angel ſatisfied her doubt, by telling her, that this Immaculate Conception ſhould be wrought by the Powerful Energy and Operation of the *Holy Ghoſt.* Whereupon, ſhe gave a clear Demonſtration of her ſublime Faith, and perfect Obedience, ſaying, *Behold the Hand-maid of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy Word.* And at that Inſtant the Promiſe began to be fulfill'd, and the Eternal Son of *God* became Incarnate.

Palm-

Palm-Sunday *is the Sixth Sunday in* Lent, *or the Sunday next before* Eaſter, *being a Moveable Feaſt.*

THIS Day, begins the Great, the Holy, and the Painful Week; on which our Bleſſed Saviour being determin'd to fulfil all that was ſpoken

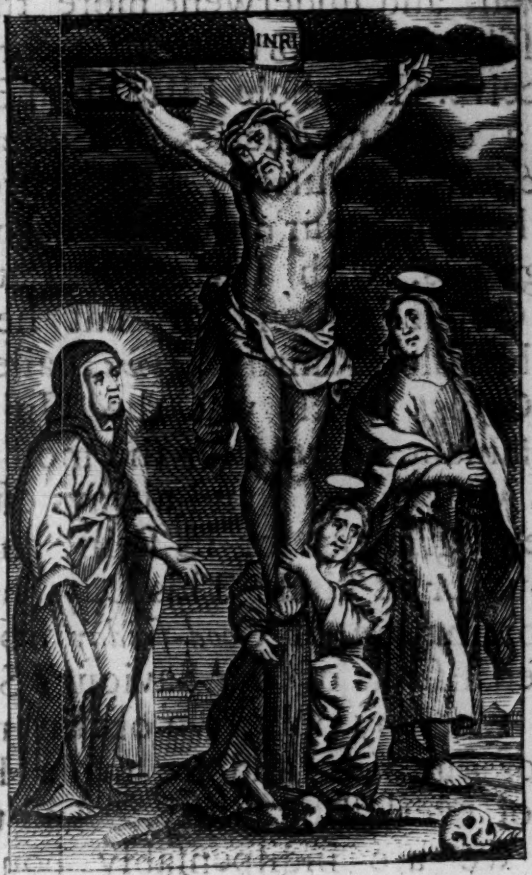
of him in the Law and the Prophets, took his laſt fatal Journey to *Jeruſalem*. And as he went along, the People unanimouſly uſher'd him into the City, with loud Acclamations and Rejoycings. Some ſpread their Garments in the Way, and others cut down Branches from the Trees, and ſtrewed them in the Way; and the Multitudes that went before, and that follow'd after, cried, ſaying, *Hoſannah to the Son of* David! Bleſſed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord, *Hoſannah in the Higheſt*. This Day has the Denomination of *Palm-Sunday* from the Branches of *Palms*, that were ſtrewed in our Saviour's Way.

Thurſday before Eaſter, *or* Maunday-Thurſday, *is a Moveable-Day.*

AS upon this Day our Bleſſed Saviour, eating the Paſſover with his Diſciples, inſtituted the Bleſſed Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and gave his Mandate to perpetuate the Cele-

bration of it; afterwards he waſhed their Feet, prayed for them, and for the Faithful Generation; inſtructed them, warned them of what ſhould come to paſs, both concerning themſelves, and his own Death and Reſurrection; promiſed to ſend them a Comforter, and expreſſed many other excellent things, for the Confirmation of their Faith; then departing to a Garden, he praying, fell into his moſt bitter Agony; which having overcome, he was that Night betrayed, and forſaken of all his Diſciples. In Commemoration of which Paſſages, the Church holds this yearly Aſſembly, that our pious Affections toward our Redeemer, may be ſtirred up, to his Glory, and our Comfort.

Friday



Friday before Easter, *or* Good-Friday, *is a Moveable Day.*

THis Day is ſet apart, as a Devout and Solemn Memorial of the Crucifixion of our Bleſſed Lord and Saviour *Jeſus Chriſt*; who for Us Men, and for our Salvation, came down from

Heaven, and underwent more than it is poſſible for Mortality to Expreſs or Conceive. His whole Life (upon Earth) was a continued ſeries of Sufferings, Afflictions, Injuries, and Affronts: And having endur'd the moſt barbarous Indignities, with Invincible Patience and Condeſcenſion, at laſt he was by the Blood-thirſty *Jews* nailed to the Croſs, which was the Univerſal Puniſhment allotted for the moſt notorious Malefactors; and always eſteemed very grievous for its Pain, and Infamous for its kind. This Day, has the Denomination of *Good-friday* from the Bleſſed Effects of our Saviour's Sufferings, whereby only, we obtain remiſſion of our Sins, and are made Partakers of everlaſting Glory. And therefore, we are indiſpenſably bound to obſerve it with the greateſt ſtrictneſs, and to endeavour by Mortification and ſelf-denial, to bear a part in all the Sorrows of our Afflicted Saviour.

Chriſt's

Christ's Reſurrection, or Eaſter-Day.
This is a Moveable Day.

ON this Feſtival, we commemorate our Bleſſed Saviour's Glorious Reſurrection from the Dead, whereby he vanquiſh'd Death, and all the Powers of Darkneſs. This Seaſon is to be

Celebrated with the greateſt Jubilee and Exultation, it being the nobleſt of all Chriſtian Solemnities, and the Time in which the Hopes of a Happy Eternity were confirm'd to us. Had our Bleſſed Saviour remain'd in the Grave, we might reaſonably have imagin'd him an ordinary Perſon; but his Reſurrection from the Dead, was a moſt convincing and undeniable Evidence of his Omnipotent and Irreſiſtible Power. Moreover, hereby, we have an Infallible aſſurance that our vile Bodies ſhall be rais'd like unto his Glorious Body; and therefore, we ought inſtantly, to Riſe from the Death of Sin, to the Life of Righteouſneſs; that being qualified with the Grace of God's Holy Spirit, we may be meet to be accounted Children of the Reſurrection.

The 25th of April *is St.* Mark's *Day.*

April 25. ON this Feſtival, we commemorate the Martyrdom of the Holy Evangeliſt St. *Mark.* He was born of *Jewiſh* Parents, and Preach'd the Goſpel in *Alexandria*, and the Parts of

of *Lybia*, converting Multitudes to the Chriſtian Faith. He wrote his Goſpel, at the entreaty, of the Converts at *Rome*; which contains an Hiſtory of the Life Preaching Miracles, Death, and Reſurrection of our Bleſſed Saviour. He was very Zealous in the Profeſſion of Chriſtianity, which was the Cauſe of his Death: For when the Enemies of the true Religion, found that his Doctrin had a very prevailing Influence upon the People, they one Day ruſh'd in upon him, whilſt he was employed in Divine Worſhip, and barbarouſly murdered him, by Binding him with Cords, and dragging him about the Streets. Thus did this good Man Exchange the Miſeries and Calamities of this Tranſitory Life, for the Glories of a never-fading *Crown*.

He penn'd the Goſpel of St. *Peter*, and was the firſt Biſhop of *Alexandria*, where he was Martyred. *Euſeb. Hiſt. l.* 2. *c.* 14. From whoſe Authority we have it, that St. *Mark* writ his Goſpel, *Anno Dom.* 43. Ten Years after Chriſt's Death.

The 1st of May *is St.* Philip *and St.* Jacob ; *or St.* James *the Less. Vulgarly called* May-Day.

May 1. THis Festival, is Celebrated upon a double Account ; partly in Commemoration of the Martyrdom

dom of St. *Philip*, and likewiſe, as a Memorial of the Death of St. *James*. St. *Philip*, was born at *Bethſaida* in *Galilee*, and in all probability was a Fiſherman; but at the ſame time, had the Honour of being firſt call'd to the Diſcipleſhip. He Preach'd ſome time in the upper *Aſia*, and afterwards came to *Hierapolis* in *Phrygia*, where he was hang'd up by the Neck againſt a Pillar, for endeavouring to Convert the Inhabitants of that Place from Idolatry. As to St. *James* the leſs (who is ſtil'd the Brother of our Lord) we have no Account of the Place of his Birth, in the Hiſtory of the Goſpel; but it is certain, that he was a Perſon of Exemplary Piety and Holineſs, and was highly Eſteem'd for his Admirable Virtues: For which Reaſons, he was Elected Biſhop of *Jeruſalem*. But at laſt, the *Scribes* and *Phariſees* threw him down from the Top of the Temple, and afterwards, daſhed out his Brains, with a Fuller's Club, in the 96th Year of his Age.

The

The 29*th of* May *is the* Reſtoration of the Royal Family.

May, 29. THis Day, is ſet apart, as a Memorial of the Reſtoration of King *Charles* II. Who having been Twelve Years baniſh'd from his Na-

Native Country, and depriv'd of his Sovereignty, by Traytors and Regicides, was at last, (by the Providence of the Almighty) Triumphantly restored to his Dominions. By which means our Ancient Government and Religion were restor'd, and our Church and Monarchy, which were then at stake, seem'd to have a new Resurrection from the Grave. Therefore, we ought, (on this Day,) to Celebrate the Praises of Almighty God, for such an inestimable Blessing. This was the Day whereon the King was Born; so that the Inauguration of his Life, became the Inauguration of his Crown, and the Happiness of the whole Land. *This was the Lord's Doing, and ought to be marvellous in our Eyes.*

The

The Rogation-Days; *viz.* Monday, Tueſday, *and* Wedneſday *before* Aſcenſion-Day.

SO termed by Antiquity, *à rogando*, from the publick Supplications; for then the Litany, which is full of humble Petitions and Intreaties, was with ſolemn Proceſſions uſually repeated, becauſe there be about that Seaſon moſt Occaſions of publick Prayer, in regard Princes do then go forth to Battel; the Fruits and Hopes of Plenty is then in the Bloſſom; the Air is moſt ſubject to Contagions and Infections; and then is moſt Labouring and Travelling both by Land, and Sea alſo, from that time of the Year forward. Which laudable Cuſtom (though it be lately much decayed, and in ſome Countries, much abuſed from the right end) is in many places orderly retained, according as the Church of *England* approveth it. And we Yearly make uſe alſo of thoſe Proceſſions, to keep Knowledge of the true Bounds of our ſeveral Pariſhes, for avoiding of Strife, and alſo that we

we might be the more provoked to praise God for his Blessing upon the Fruits of the Earth. And the better to prepare us for the Observation of *Christ's Ascension* following.

Christ's

Chriſt's Aſcenſion, or Aſcenſion-Day, or Holy Thurſday. *This is a Movable Day.* (Becauſe a Day of great Piety and Devotion.)

THis Day, is ſet apart, in Commemoration of our Bleſſed Saviour's Triumphant *Aſcenſion* into Heaven,

where he is plac'd far above all Angels and Arch-Angels, Principalities and Powers, even at the Right Hand of God, the Father Almighty. On this Day, our Bleſſed Redeemer, vanquiſh'd all the Powers of Darkneſs, and thereby open'd the Kingdom of Heaven to all Believers. This was certainly, a moſt illuſtrious Evidence of his Omnipotent Power, and a glorious Demonſtration of his Eternal God-head; and at the ſame time, an inconceivable Advantage to all Penitent Sinners; for thereby, we obtain Remiſſion of our Sins; by his Prevailing Interceſſion we may hope for Pardon and Forgiveneſs; and if we perſevere in well-doing, we have no Cauſe to doubt of a Bleſſed Immortality. And therefore, let us *Look unto Jeſus, the Author and Finiſher of our Faith; who for the Joy that was ſet before him, endur'd the Croſs, deſpis'd the ſhame, and is ſet down on the right Hand of the Throne of the Majeſty on High.*

Penti-

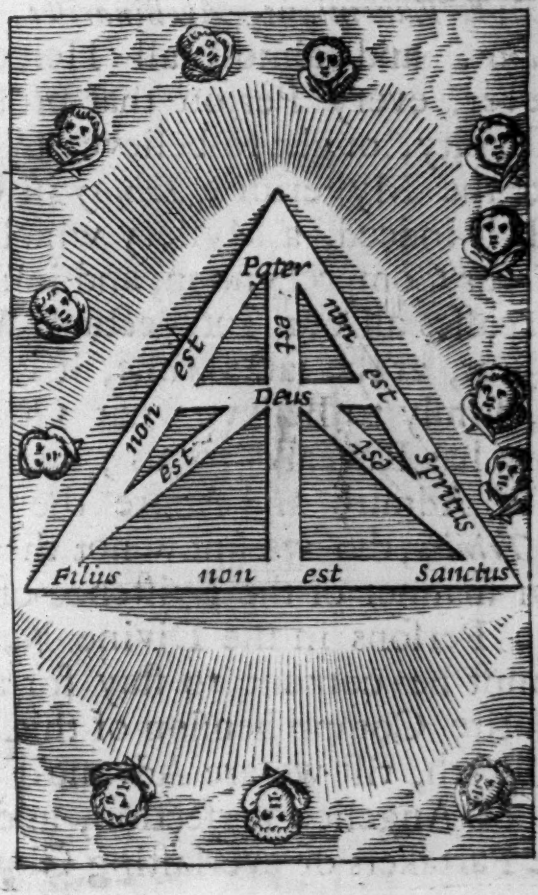
Penticoſt *or* Whitſunday, *is a. Moveable Feaſt.*

(Becauſe Fifty Days after *Eaſter.*)

THis Feſtival, is ſet apart, for a Devout Commemoration of the

Miraculous Deſcent of the Holy Ghoſt at *Pentecoſt*, in the viſible Appearance of Fiery cloven Tongues; for as the Apoſtles, were met together, in an upper Room, on a ſudden, a ſound from Heaven, like that of a mighty Wind ruſh'd in upon them, after which; there appear'd Flames of Fire, which in the Faſhion of Cloven Tongues, ſat upon each of them. Whereupon, they were all immediatly fill'd with the Holy Ghoſt, which endow'd them with all thoſe Heavenly Powers, which were requiſite to qualifie them for the Propagation of the Goſpel throughout the World. This Day, is call'd *Whit-Sunday* (or *White-Sunday*) partly upon the Account of that Glorious Light, which was ſhed upon the Apoſtles, and partly, becauſe the new Baptized Perſons, were on this Day, cloath'd in *white* Garments, as an Emblem of their Innocence. 'Tis likewiſe ſtil'd *Pentecoſt*, (from the *Greek*) being juſt Fifty Days from the Reſurrection of our Saviour.

Trinity-



Trinity-Sunday *is a Moveable-Day.*

THis Day, is ſet apart, for a Memorial of the Illuſtrious Manifeſtation of the Glorious and Incomprehenſible *Trinity*; Father, Son, and Holy Ghoſt. Which Doctrine, has been violently oppos'd, by the *Arians*, Sa-

Sabellians, *Eunomians*, *Apollinarists*, *Macedonians*, and almost all Hereticks. However, every Person that professes Christianity, ought to believe and celebrate the Mysterious *Trinity* in Unity. It is indeed, a Mystery which exceeds our Comprehension, and infinitely surpasses all our Intellectual Abilities: But, at the same time, it is sufficient, firmly to Believe what God Almighty has Reveal'd to us; and joyfully to Admire and Adore the Glorious *Trinity*, tho' we know not the particular manner of the Existence of the Three Persons in the Divine Nature. We must be content to stay for a full and intire Comprehension of this Sublime Truth, till we are Advanc'd to a State of Angelick perfection, and are made Partakers of everlasting Glory.

June *the* 11*th is St.* Barnabas *Day.*

June 11. ST. *Barnabas*, was Born at *Cyprus*, deſcended of the *Tribe* of *Levi*, and brought up in the Study of the Law, under the Tutorage of *Rabban Gamaliel.* His proper Name was (*Joſes*, or *Joſeph*,) which was

given him at his Circumciſion; but afterwards, the Apoſtles, ſurnam'd him *Barnabas*, (i. e.) *The Son of Conſolation*; becauſe he generouſly ſold his whole Eſtate, to Miniſter to the Exigencies of the Church. The firſt Fruits of his Miniſtry, was at *Antioch*, where he converted vaſt Numbers to the Faith; and after ſome time, engag'd St. *Paul* to be his Co-adjutor in that Affair. But, there happening a great Famine among the Poor Chriſtians in *Judea*, the new Converted at *Antioch*, made conſiderable Contributions to ſupply their Neceſſities, and committed the whole Matter to the Conduct and Management of *Barnabas* and *Paul*, who faithfully executed their Charge. After this, theſe two return'd to *Cyprus*, and at *Paphos*, they converted *Sergius Paulus* the Roman Governor. From thence, they went to *Perga* in *Pamphilia*; and having preach'd the Goſpel thro' ſeveral Cities, they return'd to *Antioch* in *Syria*. Our Apoſtle having thus ſpent great part of his Life, in Planting and Propagating Chriſtianity, at laſt, betook himſelf to his Native Country; and at *Salamis*, the *Jews* ſet upon him, and barbarouſly ſton'd him to Death.

June

June *the* 24*th is St.* John Baptiſt.

June 24. THis Day, is ſet apart, to commemorate the Nativity of St. *John Baptiſt*, which was wonderfully foretold by an Angel, and miraculouſly came to paſs, when his Father *Zacharias*, and his Mother *Elizabeth*, were

were both very Old and Infirm. But, his Extraordinary Conception and Birth, was not more Remarkable than his Admirable Life and Converſation! He was educated in the Deſerts of *Judea*, among wild Beaſts, till he was Thirty Years of Age; where he ſpent thoſe Days in Mortification, and corporal Auſterities; wearing nothing but a Garment made of *Camels-Hair*, and a *Leathern Girdle about his Loins*, and his Food was *Locuſts* and *Wild Honey*. At laſt, he came forth from his Solitude, and Preach'd the Doctrins of Repentance to the unconverted *Jews*; and his ſucceſs was ſo great, that Multitudes from *Jeruſalem* and *Judea*, and from the Regions round about *Jordan*, *were Baptiz'd of him, confeſſing their Sins.* For this Reaſon, he is call'd the Forerunner of our Saviour; his whole Miniſtry, tending to *prepare the Way of the Lord*, and to make a proper Introduction for the Saviour of the World. He is call'd the *Baptiſt*, becauſe he initiated all his new Converts to the Chriſtian Faith by *Baptiſm*: Moreover, he had the moſt exalted Honour of *Baptizing* his great Lord and Maſter. He

was

was a bold Reprover of the Vices of the Age, which at laſt, coſt him his Life. For *Herod*, who committed Inceſtuous Adultery with his Brother *Philip*'s Wife, was openly rebuk'd by the *Baptiſt* for that enormous Crime. This very much exaſperated the Luſtful Woman, who ſought all Opportunities and Occaſions for his Death: And at laſt ſhe had her ends. For *Herod*, being one Day, extremely Delighted with her Daughter's Dancing, he promis'd her whatſoever ſhe would demand, and confirm'd it with an Oath. Whereupon, the Girl, (by the Importunity of her Mother) demanded the Head of *John the Baptiſt*, which was accordingly put in Execution, and his Head brought up in a Charger.

Why the Church Celebrates his Birth, and our Saviours.

1. Becauſe both full of Joy, St. *Luke* 1. 58. 2. 10.

2. Becauſe both full of Myſtery, St. *Luke* 1. 18, 34.

3. Becauſe he was Chriſt's Fore-runner in every reſpect, St. *Matth.* 3. 3.

1. In his wonderous Conception.

2. In his Life of Auſterities.

3. In his Death.

June

June *the* 29*th is St.* Peter's *Day.*

June, 29. ST. *Peter*, was Born at *Bethſaida*, by Trade a Fiſher-man: His proper Name was *Simon*, given him at his Circumciſion, to which, our Saviour added that of *Cephas*, or *Peter* (which ſignifies a *Stone*, or *Rock*,) to denote the

the Firmneſs and Conſtancy of his Faith, he being the *chief Corner Stone, whereon his Maſter,* our Bleſſed Lord, was *to build his Church.* He was one of thoſe Three, that were admitted to the moſt private Paſſages and Tranſactions of our Saviour's Life, and conſequently, was capable of giving Teſtimony to the Life, Death, Reſurrection, and Aſcenſion of his great Lord and Maſter. He was indefatigably Laborious in Planting and Propagating the Goſpel, thro' *Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Aſia,* and ſeveral other Parts of the World. Moſt of the Occurrences of his Life, were attended with Miracles and Prodigies (which are ſet down at large in the *Acts of the Apoſtles*) and altho', he gave us Demonſtration of the Weakneſs and Frailty of Humane Nature, by denying his Maſter; yet, at the ſame time, *he* gave us an extraordinary Inſtance, of a hearty Contrition, and Penitential ſorrow. He was, upon this Day, Crucified at *Rome,* with his Head downwards, at the Command of *Nero* the *Roman* Emperor.

July

July *the* 25*th is St.* James's *Day.*

July 25. ST. *James* (Sir-nam'd the Great) was the Son of *Zebedee*, and Brother of St. *John* the Evangeliſt. He was by Profeſſion, a Fiſher-man, and was call'd to the Diſcipleſhip by our Saviour, as he was one Day Fiſhing in the

the Sea of *Galilee*, and he immediatly Obey'd the Summons, and follow'd his great Maſter with a Sincere Obedience. After our Lord's Aſcenſion, he Preach'd the Goſpel in *Judea* and *Samaria*, and ſome ſay in *Spain*. But, his Active Zeal for his Crucified Saviour, and for the Propagation of the Chriſtian Faith, provok'd the Fury of *Herod*, to *Vex certain of the Church*, and thinking to pleaſe the People, he caus'd St. *James* to be Apprehended at *Jeruſalem*, and then commanded that he ſhould be Beheaded. And ſo, he became the firſt Apoſtle that laid down his Life, for the Teſtimony of the Holy *Jeſus*.

Auguſt

Aug. *the* 24*th is St.* Bartholomew's *Day.*

Auguſt 24. THis Day, is ſet apart, to celebrate the Memorial of the Martyrdom of St. *Bartholomew*, (ſo call'd, becauſe he was the Son of *Tholmai.*) His proper Name was *Nathaniel*: And at his firſt coming to Chriſt, our Saviour

Saviour entertain'd him with a very High and Honourable Character, telling him, that he was an *Iſraelite indeed, in whom there was no Guile,* (i.e.) a Man of downright Honeſty and Integrity, without any of the Arts or Methods of Fraud: Whereupon, our Apoſtle Acknowledges him, to be the long-expected *Meſſiah,* the Saviour of the World. After our Saviour's Aſcenſion this good Man, travell'd into *India,* where he induſtriouſly Preach'd Chriſtianity, and left behind him St. *Matthew*'s Goſpel written in *Hebrew.* From thence he went into the *Northern* and *Weſtern* Parts of *Aſia,* converting the Inhabitants of *Hierapolis* to the true Faith. But, at laſt, he remov'd to *Albanople,* where endeavouring to reclaim the People from Idolatry, he was by the Command of the Governor, barbarouſly put to Death; being firſt Flea'd alive, and then Crucified.

September *the* 21*ſt is St.* Matthew's *Day.*

Septemb. 21. ST. *Matthew* (otherwiſe called *Levi*) was by Profeſſion a *Publican*, or Toll-gather to the *Romans*, an Office very infamous among the *Jews*, inſomuch, that thoſe who were

were employ'd in it, were not only Excommunicated publick Worſhip, but were univerſally ſhunn'd in all ſober Societies. *Publicans* and *Sinners*, were Terms of a parallel Signification; for their Buſineſs was to Oppreſs the Poor, that they might be able to Miniſter to their own inſatiable Avarice. Of this odious Employment was St. *Matthew*; but as he was one Day ſitting at the *Receipt of Cuſtom*, in his Toll-booth, on the Coaſts of the Sea of *Galilee*, our Saviour paſſing by, call'd to him, and bid him, *Follow him*. *Matthew*, (being ſenſibly touch'd by the Divine Grace,) without the leaſt Reluctancy, immediately left all, and followed his great Maſter. And to give a clear Demonſtration that he did not Repent his Bargain, he made a great Feaſt, and invited to it the worſt of Sinners, hoping that the Divine Converſation of the Bleſſed *Jeſus*, might touch their dead Hearts (as it had done his) and raiſe them up to newneſs of Life: And his ſucceſs was anſwerable to his Deſires. After his Call to the Apoſtleſhip, he was a conſtant Attendant on our Saviour, till his Death. After which he

Preach'd the Gospel in *Judea* and *Æthiopia*, converting great numbers from Error and Idolatry, to the Christian Faith. As to the Martyrdom of this great Apostle and Evangelist, we have no Authentick Account. He has left behind him one Gospel, which bears his Name, written about Eight Years after our Saviour's Death; at the intreaty of the *Jewish* Converts.

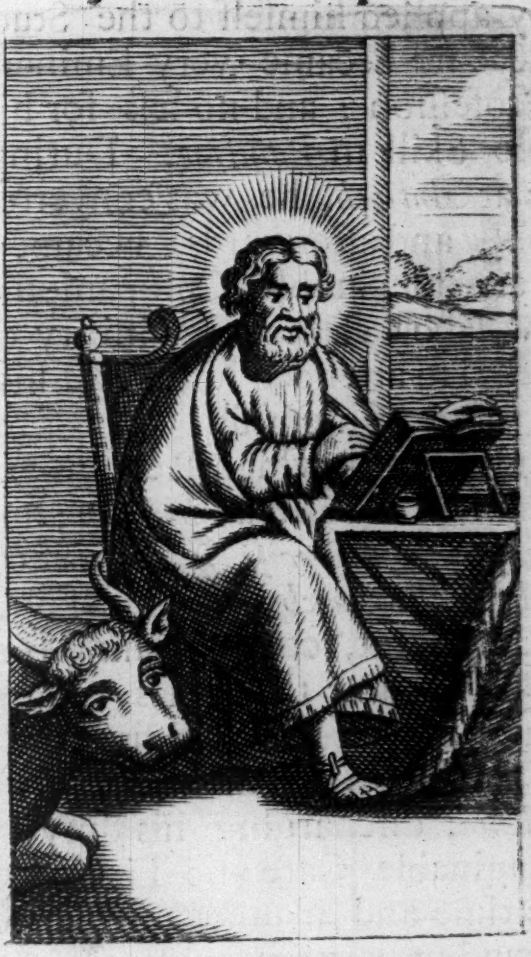
Sep-

September *the* 29*th is St.* Michael, *and all* Angels.

Septemb. 29. THis Day, is ſet apart, to celebrate the Memorial of that Glorious Victory, obtain'd by *Michael*, the *Arch-Angel*, over the Powers of Darkneſs; and to Praiſe and

Adore Almighty God, for thoſe great Benefits and Advantages, that we receive by the Aid and Miniſtration of his Holy *Angels*. For, it was a current Opinion in the Primitive Church, that every good Man, had his Guardian *Angel*; and without diſpute, thoſe Celeſtial Spirits, being *ſent forth to Miniſter to them who ſhall be Heirs of Salvation*, ſuppoſes them in a conſtant readineſs, to do all good Offices to good Men. They guard and defend Us from outward Dangers, and from the Fury and Malice of the Devil: And, at the hour of Death, they ſtand by every Righteous Perſon, to convey their ſeparated Spirits into the Manſions of the Bleſſed. As to the Combat between St. *Michael* and the *Dragon*, ſome Expoſitors refer it to the Conteſt between St. *Peter* and *Simon Magus*; Others to the Expulſion of *Lucifer*, and the other Rebellious *Angels*, out of the Kingdom of Heaven: But, certain it is, that this is a Feſtival worthy our Obſervation, and ought to be ſpent in Adoring the Wiſdom and Goodneſs of the Almighty, for appointing ſuch Excellent and Glorious Creatures (as his Holy *Angels* are) to Miniſter to our Salvation.

October



October *the* 18*th is St.* Luke's *Day.*

Octob. 18. ST. *Luke* the Evangeliſt, was Born at *Antioch*, (a Place celebrated for Schools of ſound Literature, and good Education) where he became an excellent Proficient in all ſorts of Humane Learning. After that, he parti-

cularly applied himself to the Study of *Physick*, and became very Eminent for that Profession; and no less for his admirable Skill in *Painting*. During his abode at *Antioch*, he was converted by St. *Paul*, and afterwards, became with him, an inseparable Companion, and Fellow-labourer in the Ministry of the Gospel. He attended him in all his Hazards, and assisted him in his greatest Difficulties; for which Reasons, St. *Paul* calls him, *The Beloved Physician*; and, *the Brother, whose Praise is in the Gospel, throughout all Churches.* Some say, that our Evangelist, confin'd his Ministry to *Ægypt*, and the Parts of *Lybia*: Others, that he Preach'd first, in *Dalmatia* and *Galatia*; then in *Italy* and *Macedonia*, discharging his duty, with all imaginable Care and Fidelity. As to the time and manner of his Death, we have but a very slender Account; tho' (according to *Nicephorus*) a Party of Infidels, being enrag'd at his Doctrin, hung him upon an Olive Tree, in the 80*th* or 84*th* Year of his Age. He is call'd the *Evangelist*, being one of the four that wrote the History of our Saviour's Life. He likewise, wrote the History of the *Acts of the Apostles.* Octo-

October *the* 28*th is St.* Simon *and* Jude.

Octob. 28. THis is a double Feſtival: ſet apart in Commemoration of two Apoſtles, *Simon* (call'd *Zelotes*, or, *The Canaanite*) and *Jude* (otherwiſe call'd *Thaddeus* or *Lebbæus*) the Brother of *James* the Leſs. The Hiſtory of the Goſpel,

ſpel, furniſhes us with a very ſlender Account of the firſt, only that after his Converſion, he ſhewed a moſt exalted Zeal for the Chriſtian Faith. 'Tis thought, he journy'd into *Ægypt*, *Cyrene*, and *Africa*, and there Preach'd the Goſpel; and from thence, went into *Lybia* and *Mauritania*; and after that, into the *Weſtern* Iſlands, particularly *Great Britain*; where having endur'd abundance of Perſecutions for the Truth, he was at laſt, Crucified by the Infidels. As to St. *Jude*, he was certainly a conſtant Attendant upon our Saviour's Perſon and Miniſtry till his Crucifixion. After the Aſcenſion he Preach'd in *Judea* and *Galilee*; then viſited *Samaria*, *Idumea*, and ſome parts of *Arabia*; afterwards *Syria* and *Meſopotamia*: And at laſt, 'tis ſaid, that he Travell'd into *Perſia*, where he was barbarouſly put to Death by the *Magi*, for reproving their Superſtitious Rites. He has left behind him one Epiſtle, which is receiv'd into the ſacred Canon.

It is to be obſerved on this very day, whereon St. *Jude* was Beheaded, St. *Simon* was Crucified.

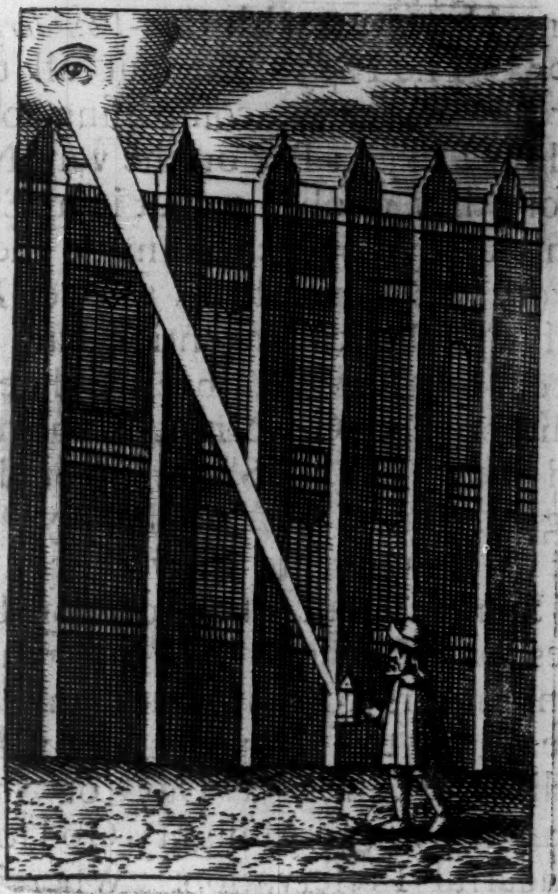
No-

November *the* 1*ſt is* All-Saints-*Day.*

Nov. 1. THis Day, is ſet apart, for a Commemoration of *All-Saints* in General, both Militant here on Earth, and Triumphant in the Kingdom of Heaven. Thoſe may be truly denominated Saints in the Church Militant, who

who live *Soberly, Righteouſly, and Godly, in this preſent World*; being always careful, *to keep a Conſcience void of Offence, both towards God and Man.* And by this means, (*when their Earthly Tabernacle is diſſolv'd,*) they will have a Glorious Building, *an Houſe not made with Hands, Eternal in the Heavens,* and ſo become a part of the Church Triumphant. Thus, the Deſign of the Church in Inſtituting this Feſtival, is to Honour God in his *Saints,* whoſe Virtues ought to be *had in everlaſting remembrance.* And alſo, that we, who are in this valley of Tears, might be encourag'd by their good Examples, patiently to *Run the Race that is ſet before Us.* And that by living as the *Saints* once did, we might at length, inherit thoſe Promiſes, which they by their Faith and Perſeverance, in this World, now Inherit in the Regions of Bliſs and Immortality.

The



The 5th of November.

Nov. 5. ON this Day we commemorate the Miraculous Deliverance of the King, the Queen, the Prince, and all the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, who were to have been Aſſembled in the upper Houſe of Parliament, from being

being blown up with *Gun-Powder, Anno* 1605. The *Papiſts* had put all things in readineſs for the compaſſing of this Helliſh Deſign: But on the very Night, before they reſolv'd to put it in Execution, the Eye of Heaven made the Diſcovery, and brought all to open Light. If this Diabolical Invention had taken effect our Laws had been violated, our Religion and Government ſubverted, and Popery and Slavery would have reign'd. But, God Almighty, by a ſingle Act of his unerring Providence, made the Sun ſhine out of the deepeſt Incloſures of Darkneſs, and brought the Conſpirators to condign Puniſhment. Therefore, this is appointed by Act of Parliament, for a Day of Solemn Thankſgiving to Almighty God for this wonderful Preſervation. Wherein we are to adore his Incomprehenſible Wiſdom and Power, by which he wrought this marvellous Work.

No-

November *the* 30*th is St.* Andrew's *Day.*

Nov. 30. ST. *Andrew* was born at *Bethſaida*, in *Galilee*, Son to *John*, or *Jonas* a Fiſherman, and Brother to *Simon Peter*. He was the firſt Apoſtle that came to Chriſt, and was Inſtrumental in

in bringing his Brother *Simon* to the ſame Happineſs. But, as theſe two were one Day Fiſhing in the Sea of *Tiberias*, our Saviour paſſing by, bid them, *Follow him*, and *He* would make them *Fiſhers of Men.* Accordingly, they left all, and from that time, conſtantly attended our Saviour's Perſon, and were made his immediate Vicegerents, for Planting and Propagating the Chriſtian Faith. Our Apoſtle, after our Lord's Aſcenſion, had *Scythia*, and the Adjacent Countries, allotted him for his Province, where he Preached the Goſpel, and converted great Numbers to the Chriſtian Faith. But having been, for many Years, indefatigably Induſtrious in his Charge; and having underwent innumerable Difficulties in the Diſcharge of his Office; he, at laſt, came to *Patræ* in *Achaia*, where he confirm'd all the Truths he had taught, by the Effuſion of his Blood; being condemn'd to be firſt Scourg'd, and then Crucified, by *Ægeas*, the Proconſul of that Province.

De-

December *the* 21*ſt is St.* Thomas's *Day.*

Decem. 21. ST. *Thomas* (Sirnamed *Didymus*, both which ſignifies a *Twin*) was a *Jew*, and ſuppos'd a *Galilean*. He was Born of mean Parents, and brought up in the Trade of Fiſhing; but at the

ſame time, became very Eminent for his hearty Love for his great Lord and Maſter; Accompanying him thro' the greateſt Hazards and Difficulties, and thinking nothing too much to ſuffer in the Cauſe of Chriſt. But, to ſee that the beſt of Men have their failings, he denyed to believe the Reſurrection of our Saviour unleſs he had ſenſible Demonſtration of it: for, when the Apoſtles (to whom our Bleſſed Lord appear'd after he was Riſen from the Dead) atteſted the reality of the Reſurrection; *Thomas* obſtinately refus'd to believe it, unleſs *he ſaw in his Hands, the Prints of the Nails, and thruſt his Hand into his ſide.* But the Holy *Jeſus*, having Compaſſion on his Infirmities, the next Lord's Day re-appear'd to the Apoſtles, when *Thomas* was preſent. Then he mercifully caſt his Eye upon the Incredulous Apoſtle, and bid him *Reach out his Hand, and put it into his ſide, and his Finger into the Print of the Nails*, and ſatisfie himſelf, by the utmoſt Evidence of ſenſe. Whereupon, *Thomas* being convinc'd, cry'd out, *My Lord! and my God!* To which, our Saviour reply'd, *Thou doſt well to Believe*

what

what thou haſt ſeen ; but Bleſſed are thoſe, which have not ſeen, and yet have Believed. However, our Apoſtle became afterwards, Invincible in his Faith, and Preach'd the Goſpel in *Parthia*, and many other Countries, with an undaunted Courage. But, it happen'd, coming to *Malabar*, the *Brachmans* fearing the downfal of their Rites and Religion ; one Day, as the Apoſtle was employ'd in Divine Worſhip, they fell upon him with Stones and Darts, till one of them at laſt, ran him thro' with a Lance.

Of Advent.

BEfore *Chriſtmas*, are appointed Four *Advent* Sundays, ſo call'd becauſe in that Seaſon the Church Commands us to qualifie our ſelves by Prayer and Repentance for the *Advent*, or coming of Chriſt in the Fleſh : Theſe are to *Chriſtmas-Day*, as St. *John Baptiſt* was to Chriſt, fore-runners to prepare for it and point it out.

December *the* 25*th is* Christmas-*Day.*

The Nativity of our Lord, or the Birth of Christ, commonly called Christmas-Day.

Decem. 25. THis Festival, is one of the greatest of all the Christian Solemnities; and consequently, ought

to

to be Solemniz'd with the higheſt Joy and Exultation. For, on this Day, the Eternal Son of God, and ſecond Perſon in the moſt Glorious Trinity, was Born of a Woman; whereby, he exactly fulfill'd all thoſe Types and Propheſies, that were made concerning him, above Two Thouſand Years before; and by this means free'd us from Eternal Death. 'Tis therefore, the indiſpenſible Duty, of every Chriſtian, to Praiſe and Magnifie the ſtupendious Love of God towards Mankind, for ſending his only begotten Son into the World in order to our Salvation. This was ſuch a glorious Inſtance of his unparallell'd Mercy, that it ought to be admir'd and Celebrated by Angels, and acknowledg'd and ador'd by Men, with the deepeſt Gratitude. All that are Partakers of this ineſtimable Benefit, ought to joyn with the Heavenly Hoſt, and the Poor amaz'd Shepherds, in Hymns of Joy and Euchariſt, ſaying, *Glory be to God on High! and on Earth Peace, and Good will towards Men.*

December *the* 26*th is* St. Stephen's *Day.*

Decem. 26. THis Day, is ſet apart, to celebrate the Memorial, of that Illuſtrious Heroe of Chriſtianity St. *Stephen.* He was the Proto-Martyr of the Chriſtian Faith: A Man of admirable Zeal and Piety: Repleniſh'd with

with the moſt Divine Gifts and Graces of the Holy Spirit; which peculiarly qualified him for that Place of great Honour and Uſefulneſs whereunto he was advanc'd. He was made one of the 7 *Deacons*, whoſe Office it was, to ſuperintend the Neceſſities of the Poor, and to make daily Proviſion for their Publick *Agape*, or Love-feaſts, in which the Holy Sacrament was always adminiſtred. Now St. *Stephen* was by the Ancients; frequently ſtil'd *Arch-Deacon*, not as being only firſt in the Catalogue, but particularly recommended under this Character, *A Man full of Faith, and of the Holy Ghoſt*. A Perſon enrich'd with many miraculous Gifts and Powers, who Preach'd and Pleaded the Cauſe of Chriſtianity, with a firm and unſhaken Mind. This gave a great diſguſt to the Unbelieving *Jews*, inſomuch, that they eagerly purſued him with loud Clamours, bitter Invectives, and falſe Accuſations: And at laſt, they ſeiz'd him, and brought him before the Council; where, he appear'd with the Beauty and Splendor of an Angel; and deliver'd to them ſuch undeniable Truths, that *they were*

not able to reſiſt the Wiſdom and the Spirit by which he ſpake. So being in a great Rage, they caſt him out of the City, and ſton'd him, whilſt he was paſſionately interceeding for the Pardon of his Murderers.

This Feaſt waiteth upon Chriſt's Nativity, becauſe he was the Proto-martyr of Chriſtianity; that by Chriſt we might learn to live well, and by St. *Stephen* to die well.

Decem-

December *the 27th is St.* John *the Evangeliſt.*

Decem. 27. ST. *John*, the Evangeliſt, was a *Galilean*, the Son of *Zebedee* and *Salome*, and Brother to St. *James* the Great, with whom, he was brought up in the Trade of Fiſhing. He was not

not above Thirty Years of Age, when he was call'd to the Apoſtleſhip, being a Perſon of a moſt extraordinary Piety, and particularly ſtil'd *The Diſciple whom Jeſus Loved.* He was one of the three, whom our Bleſſed Saviour Elected to Accompany him in his moſt Private Retirements, and to bear witneſs to the moſt remarkable Paſſages of his Life and Death. Nay, he was pleas'd to give him the Charge of his own Mother, at his Crucifixion. After the Death of the Bleſſed Virgin, which happen'd *Anno Chriſti* 18. Our Apoſtle Preach'd in *Aſia*, and erected ſeveral eminent Churches there; but his Doctrin not reliſhing with the Proconſul of that Place, he was by his Command caſt into a Caldron of Scalding Oyl, but was miraculouſly deliver'd by the Hand of Divine Providence. This having no effect upon the ſtupid Emperor, he Baniſh'd him into a Melancholy Iſland call'd *Patmos*, where he wrote his *Revelations*, and ſpent his time in Contemplating the Joys of Heaven. This Bleſſed Saint, about the beginning of *Trajan*'s Reign, departed this Life in the 98*th* or 99*th* Year of his

his Age. He wrote his Goſpel at the entreaty of the *Aſian* Biſhops. He alſo wrote Three Epiſtles, and the Apocalypſe; all which are repos'd in the ſacred Canon, and univerſally admir'd; and as Piety and Charity was his conſtant Practice, ſo 'tis the great Vein that runs thro' all his Writings.

St. *John* Writ his Goſpel about Sixty Five Years after the Death of Chriſt; and worn out with Age, dyed at *Epheſus*, in the Sixty Eighth Year after the Paſſion of our Lord, which was *Anno Dom.* 101.

De-

December *the* 28*th is* Innocents *Day.*

Decem. 28. THis Day, is prudently ſet apart by the Church, in commemoration of the Martyrdom of the Holy *Innocents.* For, it happen'd, *that when Jeſus was Born in* Bethlehem

of

of Judea, *in the Days of* Herod *the King, there came Wiſe-men* (by the Directions of Heaven,) *from the Eaſt*, to Jeruſalem; *ſaying, Where is he that is Born King of the* Jews? *For, we have ſeen his Star in the Eaſt, and are come to Worſhip him. Herod*, hereupon, apprehending his own Kingdom in danger, was in a great Conſternation. Wherefore, he ſends for the *Magi*, and gave them Orders to *ſearch diligently where the young Child was, and to bring him word, that he alſo might come and worſhip him.* The wiſe Men (Ignorant of his Helliſh Deſign, which was to deſtroy the Saviour of the World) went their way, and at laſt happily found the King of Heaven and Earth, veil'd under a Cloud of Condeſcention and Humility. But, his external circumſtances, did not altogether Eclipſe the Majeſty and Brightneſs of his Perſon, for they fell down, and Ador'd him, preſenting him with the choiceſt Products of their Country: And *being warn'd by God in a Dream*, they return'd not to *Herod*, but *went into their own Country another way. Herod*, finding himſelf deluded, immediatly gave orders, that all the Children in *Bethlehem* (and

the

the Parts adjacent) from Two Years Old and under, ſhould be ſlain; thinking to Include him, whom he ſo eagerly ſought to deſtroy. But, *God* made known to *Joſeph*, the wicked Purpoſe of *Herod*, and ſo he ſecur'd the Holy Child, by a Flight into *Ægypt*. Then the Almighty permitted the Tyrant to proceed in his Cruelty, for (if rightly recorded by the *Greeks* in their Calendar) there were no leſs than Fourteen Thouſand ſlain; whereof his own Son made up the ſad Account! But, at laſt, the Divine Judgment overtook the Impious Wretch; for he was ſmitten with ſo many Plagues and Tortures, that he died a Languiſhing and Miſerable Death.

Sunday

Sunday in General.

GOD Almighty, who in his Infinite Wiſdom and Power, Created the Heavens and the Earth, the Sea, and all things contain'd therein; and having ſpent Six Days in that Illuſtrious Work, reſted on the Seventh Day (which we call Saturday) and commanded it to be kept Holy, and ſet apart, for the exerciſes of Religious Duties. Accordingly, the Ancient People, the *Jews*, were very ſtrict in the Obſervation of that Day, and term'd it, their *Sabbath* (which ſignifies a Day of Reſt, and Ceſſation from Labour.) But now, by the ſame Divine Authority, we Chriſtians, Celebrate the Firſt Day of the Week, in commemoration of our Bleſſed Saviour's Glorious Reſurrection from the Dead; and reſting from the Works of our Redemption; for which Reaſon it came to have the Denomination of the *Lord's-Day*: So that, the *Judaical Sabbath*, was then utterly Aboliſh'd, and inſtead thereof, the Religious Obſervation of that Bleſſed Day, on which the Son of God

Roſe

Roſe from the Dead, and vanquiſh'd all the Powers of Darkneſs, was by the Writings and conſtant Practice of the Apoſtles, confirm'd to the Church in all Ages. Since therefore, the Almighty, has made the Firſt Day of the Week ſacred, for his Service and Praiſe; let us ſolemnly Aſcribe to him, the Reſplendent Glory of his Divine Attributes. Let us ſet apart this Day, from all other employments, to be ſpent in Contemplating, Praiſing, and Adoring, the Incomprehenſible Wiſdom and Power, of the great Creator and Redeemer of the World. That ſo, when we come to give an Account of our Stewardſhip, we may be made Partakers of thoſe Tranſporting, thoſe Inconceivable *Joys, which flow at God's Right-hand for Evermore.* Amen.

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